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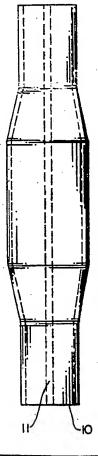
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With international search report.

(54) Title: COLLAPSIBLE BALLOON CATHETERS

(57) Abstract

A flexible plastic inflatable and collapsible medical dilatation balloon (10) and balloon catheter wherein the internal surface of the balloon has been formed with a longitudinal geometry that prevents a flat collapsed configuration of the balloon. The internal surface of the balloon is imparted with a small raised rile (11) configuration, which maintains a minimal contact with the internal surface of the balloon, so that the ribs remain in place along the length of the balloon. The geometry so formed on the internal surface of the balloon also increases the pressures the balloon would normally withstand when the balloon is inflated to dilate a vein or artery. The internal surface geometry can be manufactured by extrusion methods.



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| 1 | COLLAPSIBLE BALLOON CATHETERS |
|-----|--|
| 2 | Background of the Invention |
| 3 | Field of the Invention |
| 4 | This invention relates to balloons and to balloon |
| 5 | catheters which are useful in medical dilatation |
| 6 | procedures and is more particularly concerned with the |
| 7 | development of a collapsible dilatation balloon that can |
| . 8 | withstand significant inflation pressures and upon |
| 9 | deflation avoids the problem of "winging", that is the |
| 10 | development of flat, lateral portions projecting laterally |
| 11 | outward beyond the rest of the catheter. |
| 12 | Description of the Prior Art |
| 13 | Balloon catheters are finding increasing use in |
| 14 | medical procedures such as percutaneous transluminal |
| 15 | angioplasty, percutaneous transluminal nephrostomy, |
| 16 | ureteral dilatation, biliary duct dilatation, percutaneous |
| 17 | transluminal renal angioplasty, and the like. Balloons |
| 18 | for use in these procedures have been prepared from a |
| 19 | variety of polymeric materials which are blood and tissue |
| 20 | compatible. Among those materials that have been employed |
| 21 | include materials such as poly(vinylchloride), |
| 22 | polyethylene and the like, homopolymers or copolymers of |
| 23 | olefins, polyethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, |
| 24 | polyethylene terepthalate and polyurethanes. |
| 25 | Catheter balloons must be quite strong to withstand |
| 26 | significant inflation pressures. Accordingly, they |
| 27 | sometimes tend to be somewhat stiff, since their wall |
| 28 | thickness must be sufficient to provide the necessary |
| 29 | strength. Thus, when deflated, such catheter balloons car |
| 30 | flatten in a phenomenon known as "winging", in which the |
| 31 | flat, lateral portions of the deflated balloon project |
| 32 | laterally outward beyond the rest of the catheter. This |
| 33 | is deemed to be undesirable by many practitioners because |
| 34 | of a concern that the flat wings may damage, e.g. an |
| 35 | artery wall, as the deflated balloon is removed from the |
| 36 | arterial system. Also, such flat wings can interfere with |

1 the manipulation of the catheter and its easy advancement

through the arterial system. 2 A recent attempt to solve the problem of winging has 3 been reported in U.S. Patent No. 4,941,811, which 4 describes a balloon catheter wherein the balloon defines 5 transition zones at the respective ends which are of a 6 rounded fluted shape. The flutes, typically from three to eight, are described as generally longitudinally directed at an angle to the balloon axis, and typically extending 9 at a mutually perpendicular radial angle to the axis. the 10 lateral angle being generally from 0 to about 45 degrees, 11 preferably about 10 to 30 degrees. The radial angle in 12 the as-molded balloon is described as dependent on the 13 length of the transition zone and the relative diameters 14 of the balloon and the connected catheter portions, being 15 typically about 10 to 45 degrees. These balloons are 16 prepared by a blow molding operation, wherein the shape of 17 the balloon is governed by the inner shape of the molding 18 chamber of the blow mold. Accordingly, the outer surface 19 of the balloons, at the transition zones, contains an 20 indentation which accounts for the grooves or flutes as 21 defined therein. Finally, it is noted that the central 22 portions of the catheter are directed into a mode of 23 collapse by the flutes which is generally similar to the 24 mode of collapse in the fluted transition zones, wherein 25 the projecting "wings" are then avoided along the entire 26 length of the collapsed balloon catheter. 27 While the above balloon apparently prevents a flat-28 collapsed configuration of the balloon, it does not 29 contemplate the advantages of the instant invention, which has found that an extremely small raised ribbed 31 configuration of essentially any geometry on the inner 32 surface of the balloon, wherein the ribs need only 33

34 maintain some minimal contact angle with the inner balloon 35 wall, can completely prevent a flat-collapsed

36 configuration of the balloon. Furthermore, the ribs as

- l defined run parallel along the entire longitudinal length
- 2 of the balloon and there is no need to specify a lateral
- 3 or radial angle of such ribs. Such a design also provides
- 4 for a much lower profile on any given catheter shaft that
- 5 the balloon is employed. Moreover, the inner surface
- 6 configuration described above can be manufactured by
- 7 extrusion methods.
- 8 In accordance with this invention, a balloon
- 9 configuration for a balloon catheter is provided, which
- 10 eliminates the undesirable winging phenomena that is
- 11 encountered when the catheter balloon is in a deflated
- 12 condition. Also, the catheter balloon is stronger than
- 13 prior art catheter balloons with improved tensile
- 14 strength, while exhibiting a reduced wall thickness to
- 15 improve the flexibility of the balloon. Thus, with the
- 16 catheter balloon of this invention, balloon catheter
- 17 procedures can be performed more effectively, with less
- 18 concern about damage to the patient's veins or arteries by
- 19 the "winging" phenomena of the deflated catheter balloon,
- 20 and with ease of catheter advancement through the veins or
- 21 artery system.
- Accordingly, it is the object of this invention to
- 23 overcome the "wings" using a balloom design that will
- 24 collapse the balloon evenly around the catheter a full 360
- 25 degrees.
- It is a further object of this invention to provide a
- 27 balloon design that is suitable for use with the variety
- 28 of polymeric materials that are used in dilatation balloon
- 29 catherization.
- 30 Yet a further object of this invention is to provide a
- 31 balloon design that will collapse the balloon evenly
- 32 around the catheter a full 360 degrees while at the same
- 33 time being capable of production via standard plastic melt
- 34 processing techniques such as extrusion.
- 35 Still a further object of this invention is to provide
- 36 a relatively small, internally ribbed, raised level,

- 1 triangular, rectangular, square, circular or semi-circular
- 2 parallel protrusion along the complete longitudinal
- 3 internal surfaces of the dilatation balloon which can then
- 4 be employed in a balloon catheter for use in a dilatation
- 5 procedure such as angioplasty and the like, the internal
- 6 surface modified balloon catheters being capable of
- 7 withstanding higher pressures as compared to balloons
- 8 without internal surface modification, which also serves
- 9 to provide a lower profile balloon configuration.
- These objects, and other objects which will become
- 11 apparent from the description which follows, are achieved
- 12 by the balloons and the balloon catheters of the invention
- 13 and by the methods for their preparation. Thus, in its
- 14 broadest aspect, the invention comprises balloons and
- 15 balloon catheters for use in medical dilatation procedures
- 16 wherein the materials employed for the preparation of the
- 17 balloons can be altered during their processing and
- 18 preparation into an elastic balloon configuration that
- 19 collapses evenly around the surface of a dilatation
- 20 catheter.

21 Summary of the Invention

- The invention comprises a flexible plastic material in
- 23 an inflatable and collapsible medical dilatation balloon
- 24 and balloon catheter wherein the internal surface of the
- 25 balloon has been integrally formed with a longitudinal
- 26 geometry that prevents a flat-collapsed configuration of
- 27 the balloon. The internal surface of the balloon is
- 28 imparted with a small inwardly projecting raised-ribbed
- 29 configuration, substantially equally spaced about the
- 30 circumferance of the balloon, the ribs also maintaining
- 31 some minimal contact with the internal surface of the
- 32 balloon so that they remain in place along the length of
- 33 the balloon. The geometry so formed on the internal
- 34 surface of the balloon also increases the pressure the
- 35 balloon will normally withstand when the balloon is
- 36 inflated to dilate a vein or artery. The internal surface

- 1 geometry can be manufactured during the extrusion of a
- 2 balloon tube.

3 Brief Description of the Drawings

- 4 FIG. 1 shows, in cross-section, an extruded tube
- 5 wherein the ribs are formed along the length of the
- 6 balloon;
- FIG. 2 shows, in cross-section, another typical
- 8 balloon in accordance with the invention;
- 9 FIGS. 3A-3C show in plan and cross-sectional views
- 10 typical extrusion mandrel used to manufacture a typical
- ll balloon in accordance with the invention.
- 12 FIG. 4 shows, in cross-section, a circular geometry of
- 13 the ribs on the internal surface of the collapsible
- 14 balloon;
- 15 FIG. 5 shows, in cross-section, a semi-circular
- 16 geometry of the ribs on the internal surface of the
- 17 collapsible balloon;
- 18 FIG. 6 shows, in cross-section, a rectangular geometry.
- 19 of the ribs on the internal surface of the collapsible
- 20 balloon:
- 21 FIG. 7 shows, in cross-section, a triangular geometry
- 22 of the ribs on the internal surface of the collapsible
- 23. balloon;
- 24 FIG. 8 shows, in partial cross section, a balloon and

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25 catheter in accordance with the invention;

26 Detailed Description of the Invention

- The invention will now be described by reference to
- 28 the various specific embodiments which are shown in the
- 29 attached drawings. It is to be understood that these
- 30 embodiments are shown for purposes of illustration only
- 31 and are not to be construed as limiting.
- 32 The principal novelty in the medical dilatation
- 33 balloons and balloon catheters of the invention lies in
- 34 their internal surface geometry which has been integrally
- 35 formed with a longitudinal configuration that prevents a
- 36 flat-collapsed configuration of the balloon while at the

- 1 same time providing a balloon that is able to withstand
- 2 higher dilatation pressures. In addition, the medical
- 3 dilatation balloon catheters of the invention provide a
- 4 low profile on any given catheter shaft.
- 5 The balloons and balloon catheters of the invention
- 6 are prepared in a conventional manner using conventional
- 7 equipment and employing any of the conventional
- 8 elastomeric materials used in the fabrication of
- 9 dilatation balloon catheters. Accordingly, any of the
- 10 polymeric materials such as poly(vinylchloride), styrenic
- 11 polymers such as "KRATON", polyacrylates, polyoelfins,
- 12 polyamides, polyesters, fluoropolymers, silicones and the
- 13 like, conventionally employed in the art to prepare
- 14 dilatation balloon catheters, can be employed to fabricate
- 15 the dilatation balloon catheters of the instant invention.
- 16 For example, in producing a typical dilatation balloon
- 17 10 of the kind shown overall in FIGS. 1 and 2, a tube
- 18 having a wall thickness of about 0.05 mm to about 0.5 mm
- 19 and an internal diameter of about 0.8 mm to about 10 mm is
- 20 produced by extrusion of the aforesaid plastic materials
- 21 using conventional melt processing equipment. The
- 22 extruded balloon tube is formed by passing the tube over
- 23 an appropriate sized mandrel which first provides the
- 24 balloon with such precision wall thickness. At the same
- 25 time that the mandrel operates to form the balloon tube,
- 26 it can also be configured to cause the formation of the
- 27 desired inner surface geometry which is shown as ribs 11
- 28 in FIGS. 1 and 2. FIGS. 3A-3C illustrate an extrusion
- 29 assembly in plan in cross-section 12 a typical extrusion
- 30 mandrel which operates to form a plurality of radially
- 31 inwardly projecting ribs extending along the entire length
- 32 of the extruded balloon tube. The mandrel is inserted
- 33 into the extrusion die. A gap 13 is set between the die
- 34 and mandrel after insertion, this gap forming the wall of
- 35 the tube and also forms any design on the internal balloon
- 36 wall. It can be seen that the design 14 is cut into the

- l land area of the mandrel.
- 2 After extrusion, one end of an extruded balloon tube
- 3 is inserted into a mold having an internal configuration
- 4 corresponding to the external configuration of the desired
- 5 balloon. The balloon tube is then pinched off at one end,
- 6 the mold is heated above the softening temperature of the
- 7 flexible plastic material and a suitable gas such as
- 8 nitrogen is used to pressurize and inflate the softened
- 9 portion of the tube and force the walls thereof into
- 10 contact with the walls of the balloon.
- In a more particular embodiment employing a material
- 12 such as a polyurethane, the tube is heated in the mold
- 13 described above to a softening temperature in the range of
- 14 about 60 degrees C to about 150 degrees C.
- 15 It has been found, in accordance with the present
- 16 invention, that any geometry of the internal ribs will
- 17 serve to prevent a flat-collapsed configuration of the
- 18 balloon. Accordingly, ribs that are triangular (FIG. 4),
- 19 rectangular (FIG. 5), square, circular (FIG. 6) or semi-
- 20 circular (FIG. 7), which lie parallel to one another along
- 21 the complete longitudinal length on the inner surface of
- 22 the balloon act to eliminate the "winging" effect
- 23 encountered in balloons which lack such an internal
- 24 surface modification. While the size and number of ribs
- 25 can be increased for other reasons as described below, it
- 26 has been found that at least three ribs are necessary to
- 27 avoid the "winging" phenomena, and in a more preferred
- 28 embodiment the balloons have at least four ribs.
- 29 Furthermore, the ribs may be extremely small, and in
- 30 the case of a rectangular configuration, the ribs have the
- 31 preferred dimensions of 0.005 inches (0.127 mm) deep by
- 32 0.003 inches (0.0762 mm) wide. In the case of a round
- 33 configuration, it has similarly been found that a
- 34 preferred diameter of 0.0005 inches (0.0127 mm) is
- 35 sufficient to prevent a flat-collapsed configuration. In
- 36 the broadest embodiment, it has been found that as long as

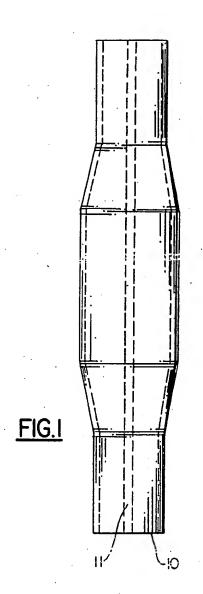
- 1 the ribs protrude about 0.0001 (0.00254 mm) inches into
- 2 the balloon, "winging" can be substantially eliminated.
- 3 Furthermore, for any of the ribs now described, the
- 4 ribs need only make minimum contact with the inner surface
- 5 of the balloon sufficient to keep the ribs in place in a
- 6 given medical dilatation procedure.
- 7 It has also been found that while the above dimensions
- 8 of the ribs serve to prevent a flat-collapsed
- 9 configuration of the balloon, the ribs also increase the
- 10 pressures that one can apply in a dilatation procedure,
- 11 again, relative to those balloons that do not contain such
- 12 ribs. Accordingly, an increase in the size of the ribs
- 13 will allow a further increase in the pressure that can be
- 14 employed in dilatation, while still maintaining complete
- 15 resistance to the development of a flat-collapsed
- 16 configuration when a vacuum is applied.
- The actual dimensions of the balloons with a modified
- 18 internal surface geometry will depend upon the particular
- 19 dilatation procedure for which the balloon and any
- 20 attached catheter are to be employed. In general where
- 21 the balloon is to be used in angioplasty, the external
- 22 diameter of the balloon will be of the order of about 2 mm
- 23 to about 25 mm. The overall length of the inflated
- 24 portion will be of the order of about 10 mm to about 150
- 25 mm. The walls of the balloon will have an average
- 26 thickness in the range of about 0.01 mm to about 0.2 mm
- 27 depending in part on the pressures to which the balloon is
- 28 to be inflated in actual use.
- 29 As will be obvious to one skilled in the art, the
- 30 dilatation balloons of the invention can also be employed
- 31 to replace dilatation balloons in any of the many other
- 32 types of balloon-catheter combinations, with or without
- 33 guide wires, currently employed in medical dilatation
- 34 procedures. Referring to the drawings, FIG. 8 shows a
- 35 balloon catheter, which defines a tubular catheter body
- 36 15, a proximal hub 16, and a guide wire 17 which extends

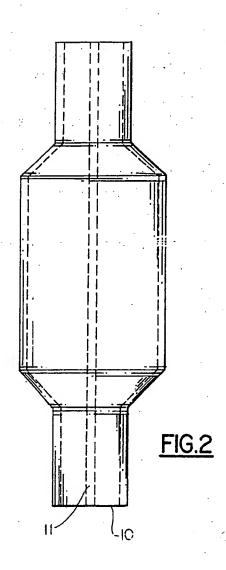
- 1 through the catheter, all being of generally conventional
- 2 design. Catheter body 15 defines an inflatable and
- 3 collapsible balloon 18 of the invention with internal ribs
- 4 19, shown to be, as is conventional, in a tubular section
- 5 of relatively larger diameter than the rest of the
- 6 catheter body 15. Balloon 18 may be an integral part of
- 7 the rest of the catheter body 15, or it may be separately
- 8 manufactured, for example, by an extrusion process and
- 9 then attached to the remainder of the catheter body 15.
- 10 Balloon 18 may be entirely inflated to expand its
- 11 diameter, and may also be collapsed to a minimum diameter
- 12 while, by this invention, the formation of a flat "winged"
- 13 configuration may be avoided in the collapsed mode of the
- 14 balloon.
- The balloons of the invention possess properties which
- 16 render them especially valuable in carrying out medical
- 17 dilatation procedures such as angioplasty and the like.
- 18 Thus, the walls of the balloon are sufficiently thin to
- 19 allow the balloon to deflate without a flat-collapsed
- 20 configuration, and to permit passage into and through the
- 21 artery, vein or like passageway involved in a medical
- 22 procedure. However, the walls of the balloon are
- 23 possessed of sufficient flexural strength such that the
- 24 balloon will not expand beyond the originally molded
- 25 configuration under pressures up to at least about 100 psi
- 26 or significantly higher depending upon the wall thickness
- 27 and/or overall size of the balloon. Hence, there is no
- 28 problem of uncontrolled expansion or danger of bursting
- 29 under pressure conditions routinely involved in
- 30 angioplasty and like procedures. Further, because the
- 31 balloons can be integrally molded on catheters of the same
- 32 material as that used for the balloon or, alternatively,
- 33 can be securely bonded without difficulty to other
- 34 materials employed in the formation of catheters, there is
- 35 little or no risk of rupture at the junction of balloon
- 36 and catheter while the dilatation procedure is being

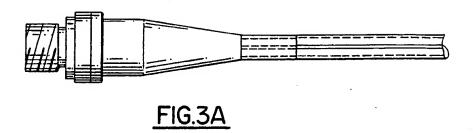
- 1 carried out. Accordingly, the balloons and balloon
- catheters of the present invention represent a significant
- advance in the art. 3
- The above has been offered for illustrative purposes
- only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the
- invention of this application, which is defined in the
- 7 claims below.

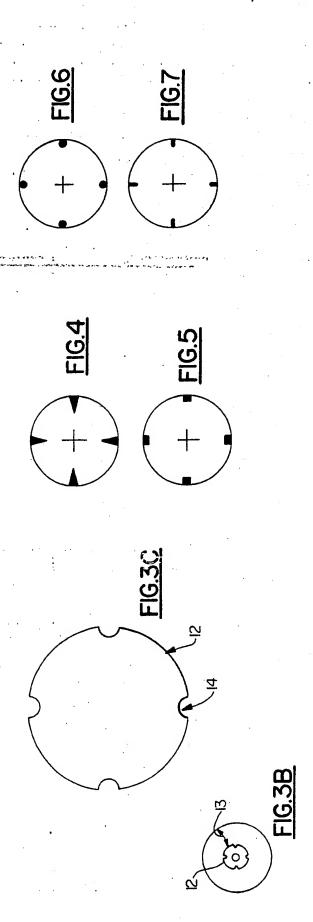
- That which is claimed is:
- 2 1. An inflatable and collapsible balloon for use in a...
- 3 medical dilatation catheter wherein the internal surface
- 4 of the balloon has been formed with at least three
- 5 radially inwardly projecting ribs (11) which extend
- 6 directly into the balloon and are integrally formed along
- 7 the complete longitudinal length of the inner balloon wall
- 8 and prevent a flat-collapsed configuration of the balloon.
- 9 2. The balloon of claim 1 wherein the radially
- 10 inwardly projecting ribs (11) are of a triangular,
- 11 rectangular, square, circular or semi-circular geometry.
- 12 3. The balloon of claim 1 wherein the inwardly
- 13 projecting ribs (11) are substantially equally spaced
- 14 about the circumference of the collapsible balloon.
- 15 4. The balloon of claim 1 wherein the inwardly
- 16 projecting ribs (11) are rectangular and are of the
- 17 dimensions 0.0127 mm deep by 0.0762 mm wide.
- 18 5. The balloon of claim 1 wherein the inwardly
- 19 projecting ribs project 0.00254 mm into the balloon.
- 20 6. The balloon of claim 1 wherein the balloon is
- 21 formed from a plastic material suitable for thermoplastic
- 22 melt processing.
- 7. The balloon of claim 6 wherein the balloon is
- 24 prepared from materials selected from the group consisting
- 25 of poly(vinylchloride), polyethylene, ethylene copolymers,
- 26 styrenic polymers, polyethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer,
- 27 polyethylene terepthalate, nylon elastomers, silicone
- 28 elastomers, fluoropolymer elastomers, and polyurethanes.
- 29 8. The balloon of claim 1 for use in the dilatation
- 30 catheter procedure of angioplasty.
- 31 9. A method for producing the balloon of claim 1
- 32 comprising:
- a. extruding a flexible plastic material over a
- 34 mandrel which provides a tubular shaped extrudate wherein
- 35 the mandrel causes the internal surface of the balloon to
- 36 be integrally formed with a plurality of radially inwardly

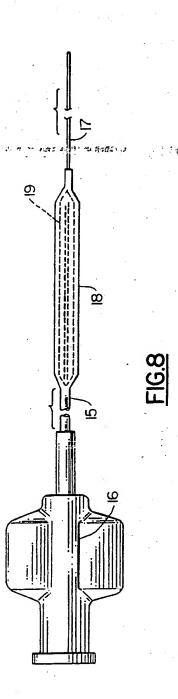
- projecting ribs; and 2
 - b. allowing the extrudate to cool to a
- temperature to solidify; and 3
- c. placing the extrudate into a blow molding 4
- assembly wherein the tube is heated and expanded into the 5
- mold into a desired balloon shape.
- 10. A catheter having a catheter body, a portion of
- said body defining the inflatable and collapsible balloon
- of claim 1.











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ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. US 9202970 58900

This assex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report.

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